

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data transfer apparatus for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

detection means for detecting a maximum value in the data group as a transfer object; and

specifying means for specifying a non-zero highest-order bit position among bits constructing the maximum value detected by said detection means,

wherein a bit in a position higher than said highest-order bit position specified by said specifying means is omitted from processing by said predetermined processing means.

2. A data transfer apparatus for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

calculation means for performing logical OR calculation on all the data group to be transferred; and

specifying means for specifying a non-zero highest-order bit position among bits constructing the result of the logical OR calculation by said calculation means,

wherein a bit in a position higher than said highest-order bit position specified by said specifying means is omitted from processing by said predetermined processing means.

predetermined processing means.

5 5. The data transfer apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said predetermined processing means is a coding
processor circuit.

10 6. The data transfer apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said data transfer apparatus includes a DMA
circuit.

15 7. The data transfer apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said data group includes pixel data or transform
coefficients generated by transform coding on the pixel
data.

8. A data transfer method for outputting a data group
having data represented by plural bits to predetermined
processing means, comprising:

20 a detection step of detecting a maximum value in
the data group as a transfer object; and

a specifying step of specifying a non-zero
highest-order bit position among bits constructing the
maximum value detected at said detection step,

25 wherein a bit in a position higher than said
highest-order bit position specified at said specifying
step is omitted from processing by said predetermined
processing means.

9. A data transfer method for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

- 5 a calculation step of performing logical OR calculation on all the data group to be transferred; and
 a specifying step of specifying a non-zero highest-order bit position among bits constructing the result of the logical OR calculation at said calculation
10 step, .

 wherein a bit in a position higher than said highest-order bit position specified at said specifying step is omitted from processing by said predetermined processing means.

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10. A data transfer method for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

- a calculation step of performing logical OR
20 calculation on all the data group to be transferred; and
 a specifying step of specifying a non-zero lowest-order bit position among bits constructing the result of the logical OR calculation at said calculation step,
 wherein a bit in a position lower than said
25 lowest-order bit position specified at said specifying step is omitted from processing by said predetermined processing means.

11. A data transfer method for outputting a data group having data represented by plural bits to predetermined processing means, comprising:

- 5 a calculation step of performing logical OR calculation on all the data group to be transferred; and
- a specifying step of specifying a non-zero highest-order bit position and a non-zero lowest-order bit position among bits constructing the result of the
- 10 logical OR calculation at said calculation step,
- wherein a bit in a position lower than said lowest-order bit position and a bit in a position higher than said highest-order bit position specified at said specifying step are omitted from processing by said
- 15 predetermined processing means.

12. The data transfer method according to claim 8, wherein said data transfer method includes a data transfer method in a DMA circuit.